

Correspondence.

NEWBORN'S INDUSTRIES.

Oyster Packing—Vegetable Canning—Wood Pulp and Wooden Plates.

NEWBORN, May 24, 1886.

ED. PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—It gives me pleasure to answer briefly your inquiries in reference to oyster packing, vegetable canning and wood pulp industries of Newborn:

Messrs. Moore & Brady, of Baltimore, have established an oyster packing business here, and have erected large buildings for the purpose at Union Point, on the south east edge of the city. They employ a large number of hands and have packed and shipped a large quantity of oysters. Since May 10th they have been canning garden peas. The truckers planted for Moore & Brady about 250 acres in peas. Owing to very dry weather the yield has been unusually small per acre. Thus far about 5,000 boxes of peas have been delivered to them.

Owing to the long continued dry weather the crop of peas, beans, potatoes, etc., have been much reduced in yield. There has been shipped North about 20,000 boxes peas, about \$2,000 worth of asparagus, 3,000 barrels of cabbage. There will be about 15,000 barrels of Irish potatoes shipped to Northern markets during June. This crop closes the truck season.

The Wood Pulp mill is owned by the Gray Manufacturing Company, and is situated on the south bank of the Trent river, opposite Newborn. The pulp is made from Cypress wood, which is very abundant here, and is used in the manufacture of writing and printing paper. It is thought that the Cypress makes better paper stock than can be made from any other wood. The process used here is a new one, lately introduced from Europe, and makes a pulp with very long fibre, and is quite strong, which is an important point in paper stock. The machinery at present in the mill will turn out about ten tons per week, and it is expected to be fully at work in a few days. Other machinery will shortly be added that will increase the output to twenty tons per week. It requires two cords of wood to make one ton of pulp.

The Gray Manufacturing Company make wood plates for grocers' use in large quantities.

Newborn, owing to the situation on the Neuse and Trent rivers, has a large trade in lumber and shingles, which has taken the place of the old products of tar, pitch and turpentine, which are almost things of the past.

Respectfully,

GEORGE ALLEN.

THE INDUSTRIAL CLASSES vs. THE VULTURES.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—In order for society to exist in a healthy condition it must be constituted by and be based upon the following industrial classes:

1. The agricultural and mining class—the producers.
2. The manufacturing class, whose business is to convert the crude products into articles of utility and necessity.
3. The commercial class, whose business is to take the products from the farms and mines and the factories, and from thence to distribute manufactured goods among the consumers.

Now, these three classes constitute the industrial kingdom, so to speak, and are not only essential to a healthy state of society but are mutually dependent upon each other. It is therefore of the utmost importance that perfect harmony should exist between the members of this industrial kingdom. It will not do for one class to say I am of more importance than another and therefore am entitled to a greater voice in the management of the affairs of this kingdom. They are all members of one body, and are indispensable to the existence of that body, which gives life to each of its members. Hence they should recognize the necessity of and maintain this equilibrium or balance of power in their government.

Unfortunately the war produced an era of speculation at the North, which gave birth to a fourth class—the speculative or gambling class—which not only has no heritage in the Industrial Kingdom, but is positively a curse to society, holding the position in the industrial which the birds of prey and ravenous beasts do in the animal kingdom. "They toil

not, neither do they spin," yet live in luxury and splendor upon the fruits of honest toil wrested by force or cunning from the industrial classes. By intrigue and craftiness they have gotten possession of the government and have control of every financial and industrial interest in the country. So oppressive have their exactions become and so heavy the fetters they are forging for us and our children, that the time has come when we, if we would escape the most abject and degrading slavery the world has ever seen, must break the shackles from our limbs and reassert our manhood, and restore harmony and prosperity to the industrial kingdom.

The first step to be taken towards our deliverance is to utterly exterminate this class of gamblers. There are two ways and only two ways of accomplishing this:

One way is to resort to force and absolutely destroy their property and persons; but this would lead us into rebellion against all government, human and divine, and would produce a state of anarchy and confusion too horrible to contemplate.

The other way is to resort to the ballot box, get possession of the government and by the enactment of rigid laws deprive these gamblers of all power for evil. To do this we must organize the three industrial classes in this country, get peaceable possession of the government and by the enactment of wise laws, restore happiness, and prosperity to our country.

CASWELL.

TOBACCO CULTURE IN CUBA.

I asked Col. Lopez de Querelto, who has been often in Cuba, how it comes that they are able on that island to raise so much better tobacco than any thing else. He replied: "Because they have its cultivation reduced to a science. Your American tobacco raiser pays no attention whatever to natural laws. The Cuban planter applies the exactness of mathematical calculation to so small a matter as the planting of his seed. He lays out his field so that the rows of plants shall run exactly north and south. Thus every leaf gets an equal share of the sun during the course of the day as it passes over, or rather as the earth rolls around. This makes the tobacco even in flavor. The Yankee planter puts his seed in, hit or miss. It is the same way about all the cultivation. Do you know how they kill the tobacco worm? They go through the fields with a three or four pound cannon, which they load and fire every fifteen or twenty feet. The concussion kills the grubs. I have had Americans ridicule me for making such a statement, they thinking it could not be possible. Yet that is one of the ways the tobacco crop is brought to perfection."—*New York Tribune*.

CONDITION OF MANURE FOR THE SOIL.

Manure is valuable not only in proportion to its quality but also to the condition in which it is applied to the soil. The majority of farmers give very little thought to the manure other than to save and haul it to the fields. They will fill the barnyard full of coarse stalks or other refuse matter, trusting to the feet of the stock for pulverizing it, and resting content that they are "making manure." They are correct in placing absorbent matter in the barnyard, and they are practicing economy in endeavoring to save all the material possible for the purpose of rendering it into plant food, but they should consider the wants of the crop and manage their manure heaps with a view of deriving as much benefit as possible in the shortest time.

Next to quality the condition of the manure is the most important matter to be considered. All manure should be fine. Coarse manure or litter is useless for immediate results. Such manure may have absorbed a certain amount of plant food, and will be capable of nourishing a crop, but the coarser or insoluble portions must decompose before they can be utilized. True, the effects may be more lasting, but the farmer should aim to derive as much benefit as possible in the shortest time. We have often noticed large loads of so-called manure hauled miles to the farm that consisted of coarse, bulky litter, and which would not pay for the hauling if the actual manuring value of the materials were rightly understood. All manure is in a con-

stant state of decomposition. The more this process (called rotting) has been effected before it has been applied to the soil the shorter the period required for that purpose when it is utilized. But the rotting process is done in the heap at a loss. Be as cautious as we may some of the volatile matter escapes, and the value of the manure is depreciated. But if the substances of the heap are in a fine condition so as to intimately mix the real manure and the absorbents, not only will the volatile matter be arrested, but the coarse material will be more valuable. It should be the aim of the farmer, therefore, to put nothing in the manure heap or in the barnyard until it is first reduced to a fine condition. This calls for extra labor, but the returns will come in when the crop is harvested where the manure is applied, while a portion of the labor will be saved in the ease and facility with which the manure may be hauled and spread upon the land. Care must also be exercised in caring for the manure and protecting it from the sun and rains.

HOW RAINS FERTILIZE THE SOIL.

The rain performs a double purpose—that of supplying moisture and of adding fertility to the soil. How is this done, and how may we observe it? When the ammonia escapes from the manure heap, being lighter than the air, it rises, and though the proportion distributed in the atmosphere may be small, yet it amounts to a considerable quantity when we consider the many sources of its loss. Water has the capacity of absorbing ammonia. If the weather is very dry the ammonia will rise above the plants. For this reason it is supposed that plants do not have the power of appropriating it through the agency of the leaves. But as the rains come down, the ammonia which the water absorbs is brought down with it and carried to the roots of the plants, and the more porous the soil, and the finer its condition, the greater amount of ammonia it regains from the air. The air also contains nitric acid, which is due to the action of electricity on the nitrogen of the atmosphere, or the ammonia is converted nitric acid, but the question is unsettled, and scientists have as yet not decided what takes place in the atmosphere in that respect, but it is well known that some plants, like clover, have opportunities of appropriating it freely. We are not prepared to claim that plants cannot absorb nitrogen by the use of leaves, as evidences conflict, and yet, as plants mature on soils that are deficient in nitrogen, we are easily convinced that the rains provide that element. It is best to retain your ammonia in your manure heap, however, as the rains may give that which is lost by you to your neighbor.

FARMERS' WIVES SADLY OVERWORKED.

It is not urged that all farmers' wives are drudges. Many of them perform no more work than is essential to vigorous health. But thousands and tens of thousands of them are worked into their graves. These are the women who build the fires, cook meals three times a day for a force of men, feed and milk the cows, do the washing and ironing for a dozen persons, make the butter and cheese, do marketing, put up the fruits, cultivate the kitchen garden—the women who commence their round of toil by starlight in the morning, an hour or more before the stronger men are out of bed, and end it near midnight, hours after the same strong men go to bed and sleep. The farmer, working hard himself, and hearing but a few complaints from his toiling wife—doing his work and seeing that her's is done, asks no questions, and no doubt feels that while his wife can get through with her work, it would be a needless expenditure of means to hire a servant to help her. When at the age of forty, from hard work and child-bearing, she takes on the appearance of a woman of sixty, he concludes that she "didn't have a strong constitution," and that she would have fared better had she been the wife of a carpenter or shoemaker. We repeat, that the slavery to which we allude is not the lot of all farmers' wives. Many farmers are as considerate for the health of their wives as for their own health; but the fact is undeniable, nevertheless, that, as a class, the wives of farmers are overworked.—*Chicago Times*.

Farm Notes.

FEEDING WHILE MILKING.

A mess of feed given to a cow while she is being milked draws her attention and she will not hold up the milk as cows are apt to do when the calf is taken from them. The milking can be done more thoroughly as well as quicker, when the cow is quietly eating. And if fed turnips or cabbage at this time the odor will not affect the milk.

RUST ON PLOWS AND CULTIVATORS.

Kerosene oil will take rust off from iron if time enough is given; but for quick work a few drops of sulphuric acid rubbed on the rust is preferable. But the iron must be well scoured and a little oil poured on as soon as the rust is removed. The acid will eat into the iron and form more rust unless this precaution is attended to.

MEDICINES FOR HOGS.

While not believing much in dosing any farm animals or even human beings, there can be no doubt that occasional doses of turpentine, sulphur and charcoal, mixed with their feed, help to keep pigs in good condition. If these are given once a week, the hog cholera will not appear.

PRESERVING EGGS.

The very low price of eggs has this year come unusually early, and it is now so much lower than it has averaged of late years that the chances are rather for an advance before Fall. Certainly eggs at present rates are cheap food and whoever will preserve them until winter will be pretty sure of a profit. Dipping the eggs in strong lime water and then packing in salt is a safe way to preserve them. They should be in a tight box, which should be turned over every two or three days to prevent the yolk from settling down so as to touch the shell.

WHEN MANURE SHALL BE APPLIED.

Most farmers draw what manure they have on their poorest land, thinking the best rich enough to be profitably cropped without. The result is a fairly good crop from a large acreage, but with low prices little if any more than the necessary expense of growing it. The reform here needed is getting the poorest land in grass where it will be least expense, and will be, however slowly, growing more fertile. Then apply what manure can be got on the best land, grow large crops and use the profits on those in improving the remainder of the farm.

DRAINS IN CLAY SOIL.

Water soaks slowly through clay, especially when it has been cultivated thoroughly. If under-drains are run in clay fields there is danger that at the upper end, if considerable water flows in, it will carry with it sediment and thus close up the tile. To prevent this sink a well at the head of the ditch, two or three feet lower than the bottom of the outlet. This will hold the dirt, and by clearing out once a year the drain will keep in order forever. Where the drains run through clays the water will soak down to them better after the frosts of a few winters have opened the soil.

FENCES AND UNDERDRAINS.

A fence adds nothing to the productive capacity of land. It simply enables the farmer to secure in a most expensive manner, that of pasturing, a diminished product. The fences, at least on Northern farms, have cost more than the farm buildings. If the money thus spent had been used in underdraining how much better would have been the return. Draining cost money as well as labor, but it makes land so productive that its owner can devote more of it to profitable crops and maintain a larger stock by soiling than would ever have been possible by pasturing. By draining the farmer is able thus to sell more produce while still increasing the available fertility of his land.

LAND FOR VINEYARD PURPOSES.

In grape growing regions much is made of the fact that certain land is good for vineyards, and an extra price is asked therefor. This adaptability for grape growing consists chiefly in having land dry, either naturally or artificially drained. The very best vineyard soil is composed of shale which drains away all surplus water. This gives it the extra warmth needed for early ripening, and this warmth insures the burn-

ing up of surplus vegetable matter. What are commonly called very rich soils are not best for grapes. Such soils have usually more humus than mineral fertility, and it is the latter, especially potash, that the grape needs to bring it to perfection. Very sandy soils are more apt to be deficient in potash than in anything else.

FILLING IN DITCHES.

The surprising fact in making underdrains is that the earth removed in digging will never quite fill the ditch, even after the stone or tile which makes the water passage has been laid. It shows that unmoved soil is full of vacant spaces, while after being loosened it is easily compacted. The most rapid work filling in ditches is with a plow, a space at each end being covered by hand for the team to turn around on. Unless the soil is ridged up above the drain a hollow will mark its site after the first year, but this does no particular harm, except where the water exceeds the capacity of the drain to take away. In such case the overflow should be in a furrow three or four feet one side or the other of the line of the drain.

WHERE THE HOG GOES.

According to the Hog, England leads all nations as a purchaser of our hog products, but Canada buys heavily of us. Cuba is an excellent customer, and other parts of the West Indies buy all they can afford to. There is a small but promising trade with Mexico and Central America. Scotland is quite a large buyer in our provision markets. Germany and France buy immense quantities of our lard, which they do not prohibit. All signs point to a continued increase in this export movement. The total value of exports of hog products for the fiscal year of 1885 was \$64,882,410. But, notwithstanding an increased amount of exports, the value thereof shows a falling off, as compared with the year previous, of \$4,871,113, on account of the low price of hog products which has prevailed. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 345,920,606 pounds of bacon have been exported, 54,201,321 pounds of ham, 70,660,765 pounds of salt pork and 283,215,979 pounds of lard. For the fiscal year ending 1884 there were shipped abroad from all ports 341,579,410 pounds of bacon, 47,919,958 pounds of hams, 60,353,363 pounds of salt pork and 265,094,719 pounds of lard.

ASSISTANCE AT BIRTH.

A little knowledge of veterinary obstetrics is often of very great value to the farmer. Cases of wrong presentation occasionally occur on almost every farm, and sometimes cause serious loss, when a very little timely assistance would have removed the whole difficulty. The natural presentation is that of the forefeet, with the head lying upon them, the belly being downward. When this presentation occurs there is very seldom any need of assistance, the chief exceptions being in case of extreme debility of the dam, or of dropsical swellings about the head or abdomen of the fetus. Sometimes, however, but one forefoot is presented, the other being doubled back under the belly. In this case the fetus must be gently pushed back, and the foot drawn carefully outward. A more difficult case occurs when the head is turned backward. In this case endeavor to slip a noose around the lower jaw, then push the body of the fetus backward and draw the head forward.

Presentation of the hind feet occasionally occurs, and cannot be considered as abnormal, although assistance is more often needed here than when the forefeet come first. If both hind feet are presented, all that is needed is to pull gently when the pains occur.

In general it is best to refrain from meddling, unless there is clear evidence of a wrong presentation, or several hours unsuccessful labor have shown that all is not right. Before attempting to render assistance, the hand and arm should be thoroughly greased, and gently introduced sufficiently to ascertain just where the difficulty lies. Then, in giving assistance, avoid all rough usage, pulling only when the pains occur.

The afterbirth need not be disturbed for twenty-four hours. If not naturally removed within that time, assistance should be given by greasing the right hand and arm, and with it loosening the "buttons" which attach the membranes, while the left hand gently pulls, with a twisting motion.—*Farm and Fireside*.